GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:797
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
INDIAN STUDENTS STRANDED IN BEIJING
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian students got stranded in Beijing recently due to sale of fake air tickets to them by bogus travel agents as reported in the `Times of India` dated 15th July,2008;

(b) if so,whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Chinese authorities to help the stranded students;

(c) if so,the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): As per available information 154 Indian medical students from Chongqing,Nanzing and Suzhou Medical Universities in China had purchased return fare e-tickets to facilitate their travel to India for the summer vacation from a Bangladeshi national Mohammed Jabbar Miah alias Farooq in July 2008. Some of these students were not issued boarding passes by Emirate Airways at Shanghai Airport on the grounds that the tickets had been bought through fake credit cards.Malaysian Airways also cancelled certain tickets purchased from them.

(b, c & d): The matter was reported by our Mission in China to the Exit-Entry Administration of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau requesting their assistance in the matter.Details of Bangladeshi national along with his passport particulars were intimated to them.Air India office at Shanghai was also contacted to accommodate the stranded students by providing discounted fare and priority booking.

Following the incident,Universities in Eastern China Region have appointed nodal officers to liaise with counterpart representative of Air India and Jet Airways for the purchase of tickets.The Universities concerned and students have been advised to be careful while purchasing tickets and follow this mechanism in future thereby obviating the need for travel agents.